One page 7, line 22, insert the heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERED EMBODIMENT(S)--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims 1-13 with the following amended claims:

1. (Amended) A method for outputting traffic information in a motor vehicle, in which

traffic messages are stored together with the respective position of the route section or point to which they relate,

the positions of the traffic messages are compared with the respective position of the motor vehicle in which the traffic information is to be output in order to determine the distances between the respective positions in the traffic messages and the position of this motor vehicle, and

the traffic messages are output sorted according to distances, starting with the smallest distances.

2. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the sorted traffic messages are transmitted to a motor vehicle.

3. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the traffic messages are transmitted to a motor vehicle, sorted there and stored.

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the traffic messages which are transmitted to a motor vehicle are continuously updated at predefinable time intervals.

5. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein only traffic messages which relate to a selected area are stored and are subsequently output in the motor vehicle.

6. (Amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the selected area surrounds the position of the motor vehicle in an essentially circular shape.

7. (Amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the selected area can be defined with respect to the particular current position of the motor vehicle as a function of a planned route for a journey, surrounding it in a corridor-like fashion.

8. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein

each traffic message is transmitted together with an item of updating information which describes the anticipated duration of the general relevance of the respective traffic message,

the average vehicle speed is detected, logically linked to the distances assigned to the traffic messages and compared with the updating information in order to detect the specific relevance of the respective traffic message, and only traffic messages which have been assessed relevant to the respective vehicle in terms of timing are output.

9. (Amended) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the updating information of the respective traffic message contains the transmission time, the anticipated duration and the detection time of the reported event.

10. (Twice Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein:

first the direction of travel of the motor vehicle is detected,

the direction of the motor vehicle with respect to the particular position of the traffic message is detected and is compared with the direction of travel, and

the traffic messages are output sorted according to directions.

11. (Amended) The method according to Claim 10, wherein a directional factor is formed for each traffic message from the direction of the motor vehicle with respect to the particular position of the traffic message and the direction of travel, which factor is combined with the distance assigned to the respective traffic message to form a local relevance factor